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DCSLOG	S/S for CofS & S/A

UNCLASSIFIED SUBJECT OR SHORT TITLE

Responsibility and Organization for Project CASPER (U)

NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF INCLOSURES TO DOCUMENT *(Indicate addition and/or deletion of inclosures with dates)*

w/1 - Cys 1 thru 4
W/Tabs A & B

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M/G Throckmorton	5 Jan 62		
P Brett	5 Jan 62		

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : GENERAL EDDLEMAN

Lt Col Allen

DATE: 18 Sep 61

FROM : ACTING SGS

75398

SUBJECT: Responsibility and Organization for Project CASPER (U)

1. The purpose of the attached DCSLOG SS is to acquire Acting CofS approval of forwarding a talking paper and proposed memo for the Sec/Def to the SA for action. The talking paper, incl to SS, provides SA with detailed background information on Project CASPER and sets forth the DA proposed actions which include:

a. SA memo to the Sec/Def (Tab A to incl).

b. Sec/Def letter to Gen Clifton (incl 1 to Tab A). This forwards a proposed letter to the Vice President from the President and suggests prompt action to clarify the project CASPER endeavors (red tab).

2. You were briefed on Project CASPER on 8 September. At this time you approved in concept the submission of a memorandum to the SA which would forward to the Sec/Def proposed correspondence for the signature of the President.

3. A separate DCSLOG action presently under preparation will forward the Army's position on the transportation plan element of Project CASPER to the Architect of the Capitol.

4. DCSLOG recommends you approve forwarding the SS and proposed action to the SA.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL (21 Sep 61)

SEE ME _____

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1
1 2 DCSLOG 75479
2 Lt Col Gilman

LOG/P4 TSC-0444-61 Responsibility and Organization for Project CASPER (U) 18 SEP 1961

x x x

PURPOSE

(S) This Summary Sheet forwards a talking paper and correspondence for Secretary of Defense signature forwarding to the Military Aide to the President a draft letter for the President's signature concerning responsibility and organization for Project CASPER.

DISCUSSION

1. (S) This paper is forwarded on a "special handling required" basis. Details of Project CASPER are TOP SECRET and, in accordance with instructions through the Architect of the Capitol, have been handled on a strict "Need-to-Know" Basis. Knowledge of the project in Congress is limited to the four Congressional leaders. One of the primary security objectives is to limit Congressional disclosures of the project to the discretion of these four Congressional leaders. It should be noted that the existence and purpose of project CASPER is identified in Section III, A1, "DOD Emergency Plans Book."

2. (TS) Project CASPER is the unclassified name of the relocation site for Congress at the Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Spring, West Virginia.

3. (C) The talking paper at Incl 1 explains the problems involved, furnishes at Tab B the essential documentation, and describes an informal request from the Military Aide to the President for a draft memorandum for the President's signature concerning Project CASPER. The Army Staff believes that the Secretary of Defense is not aware of the problems involved. In a briefing to the Vice Chief of Staff, U.S. Army concerning Project CASPER, he directed that a talking paper be prepared as a basis for the Secretary of the Army to discuss this project with the Secretary of Defense.

4. (S) TAB A of the talking paper contains action correspondence as follows:

a. A memorandum to the Secretary of Defense for signature of the Secretary of the Army.

b. A letter to the Military Aide to the President for the Secretary of Defense's signature, which forwards the draft letter for the President's signature, as requested by his Military Aide.

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DCSLOG-TSC-0444-61

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Chief of Staff 2

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LOG/P4 TSC-0444-61
SUBJECT: Responsibility and Organization for Project CASPER (U)

RECOMMENDATION
That the Secretary of the Army:

a. Discuss Project CASPER with the Secretary of Defense.

b. Sign the memorandum to the Secretary of Defense.

COORDINATION
None required.

SIGNED

L. J. LINCOLN
Major General, GS
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff
for Logistics (Programs & Budget)

1 Incl
Talking Paper
w/2 Incl - Tabs A ~~and B~~

Recommend approval; — Acting C/S US ARMY SEP 21 1961

Approved by
S/A as modified
/s/ AWA 9/28/61

"Action modified to include information in talking paper in memo. to S/D and to forward memo. to S/D instead of discussing with him personally. /s/ AWA
Col. Allen

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TALKING PAPER FOR USE BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
(RCS CSOCS-20)

DCSLOG, DP&M
L/Col Gilman/75479
9 SEP 1961

SUBJECT: Responsibility and Organization for Project CASPER (U)

1. Project CASPER is the unclassified name of the relocation site for Congress at the Greenbriar Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Details concerning Project CASPER are Top Secret and have been handled under special security arrangements and on an exceptionally strict need-to-know basis for political reasons. With the exception of the Majority and Minority Leaders, Congress is unaware of Project CASPER, and the security procedures limit disclosure to the control and direction of these members.

2. The relocation site has been constructed and is being kept in an austere condition of readiness by a small cadre of Army personnel. Although desires of Congress are unknown, it is questionable whether the stage of readiness is adequate. Furthermore, there are potential problems with the Hotel management and procedures and responsibility have not been established. All the equipment and supplies have been installed to enable 2000 people to operate buttoned-up for a period of 17 days. As you might judge, the facility is quite similar to High Point or the Alternate Joint Communications Center (AJCC), with certain exceptions --

a. Communications more suitable for the need of Congress have been installed.

b. Protection is provided against fall-out and 25 PSI of over-pressure, as compared to 400 PSI at the AJCC.

c. Far more luxurious surroundings are available for use during periods when the Congressmen do not have to take cover.

It is natural to question, "How did all this happen and where do we stand now?"

3. Briefly, the Army's role was initiated in your office five years ago when Secretary Wilson sent the Army on 1 June 1956, a memorandum to furnish engineer assistance to the Architect of the Capitol for a special project.

OSA, ASG Control No. T 50761

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4. On 15 September 1958, the Majority and Minority Leaders told the Architect of the Capitol to proceed immediately with Project CASPER.

5. The Architect of the Capitol, in a letter of 22 September 1958, in turn requested the Secretary of Defense to build the facility, and Mr. Quarles, then Acting Secretary of Defense, on 1 October 1958 turned Project CASPER over to the Army. The last paragraph of his memorandum (TAB B) has been adequate for the construction phase but its application in the current phase is unclear. These are his exact words:

"I further desire that the cooperation of the Department of the Army and its technical services in the Corps of Engineers, the Signal Corps and the Transportation Corps, continue to be made available to the Capitol Architect and provide him with the necessary technical advice and assistance."

6. Although Project CASPER as a facility is complete, the Department of the Army, in its advisory role, has become aware of a number of problems beyond its province which remain to be resolved. The Capitol Architect seems to have limited authority and means and there is no organization in the Congressional or Executive Branch to deal with the over-all aspects of such problems.

7. While the arrangements for management of the project permitted construction, they are totally unsuited for the operational phase. The problems involved are clearly beyond the province of the Army and have their roots in the basic problem of relationships between the Executive Branch and the Congress. The Army having built the facility and being the contracting agency for leasing of certain parts of the facility is most anxious that its status be clarified so responsibility can be passed to the proper agency.

8. General Clifton recently mentioned Project CASPER to the President, who expressed considerable interest and asked for a draft memorandum which he could sign and send to Vice President Johnson requesting recommendations thereon. This request was made known informally to the Army staff through the Deputy Chief Signal Officer who has an acute signal problem.

9. The Signal Corps must move 63 contract personnel and 34 civilian employees, now located at High Point, to the Greenbriar Hotel to make communications there fully operational. There are security and legal restraints on premature movement. Basically,

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the Signal Corps needs to know if the President would notify Congress to move to the relocation site and if Congress would indicate to the President when it would move. Should Signal Corps or other activity result in disclosure of the nature of the project, it is not clear who should speak on it to the press or others, or just what should be said. The Army has a cover plan to say it is an evacuation site for The Surgeon General. However, the situation could lead to confusion and embarrassment.

10. There is much more involved, therefore, than the Signal Corps problem, so I have had a draft letter prepared which covers all known problem areas and refers them to the Vice President for resolution with the Congress and to issue appropriate instructions to the Executive Branch. I should add that Vice President Johnson, as Majority Leader of the Senate, was one of the four leaders who directed that Project CASPER be built.

11. I request that you forward to General Clifton the letter which I have drafted for President Kennedy's signature, and would like to leave the necessary correspondence with you for your signature.

SIGNED
L. J. LINCOLN
Major General, GS
Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff
for Logistics (Programs & Budget)

(Less Tab B)

2 Incl
1. TAB A - Proposed Memo for SECDEF w/2 Incl
2. TAB B - Background

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SEP 28 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Responsibility and Organization for Project CASPER (U)

1. Project CASPER is the unclassified name of the relocation site for Congress at the Greenbrier Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Details concerning Project CASPER are Top Secret and have been handled under special security arrangements and on an exceptionally strict need-to-know basis for political reasons. With the exception of the Majority and Minority Leaders, Congress is unaware of Project CASPER, and the security procedures limit disclosure to the control and direction of these members.

2. The relocation site has been constructed and is being kept in an austere condition of readiness by a small cadre of Army personnel. Although desires of Congress are unknown, it is questionable whether the stage of readiness is adequate. Furthermore, there are potential problems with the hotel management and procedures and responsibility have not been established. All the equipment and supplies have been installed to enable 2000 people to operate buttoned-up for a period of 17 days. The facility is quite similar to High Point or the Alternate Joint Communications Center (AJCC), with certain exceptions --

a. Communications more suitable for the need of Congress have been installed.

b. Protection is provided against fall-out and 25 PSI of overpressure, as compared to 400 PSI at the AJCC.

c. Far more luxurious surroundings are available for use during periods when the Congressmen do not have to take cover.

3. The Army's role was initiated when Secretary Wilson in a memorandum, 1 June 1956, directed the Army to furnish engineer assistance to the Architect of the Capitol for a special project.

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4. On 15 September 1958, the Majority and Minority Leaders told the Architect of the Capitol to proceed immediately with Project CASPER.

5. The Architect of the Capitol, in a letter of 22 September 1958, in turn requested the Secretary of Defense to build the facility, and Mr. Quarles, then Acting Secretary of Defense, in a memorandum dated 1 October 1958 turned Project CASPER over to the Army. The last paragraph of his memorandum has been adequate for the construction phase but its application in the current phase is unclear. These are his exact words:

> "I further desire that the cooperation of the Department of the Army and its technical services in the Corps of Engineers, the Signal Corps and the Transportation Corps, continue to be made available to the Capitol Architect and provide him with the necessary technical advice and assistance."

6. Although Project CASPER as a facility is complete, the Department of the Army, in its advisory role, has become aware of a number of problems beyond its province which remain to be resolved. The Capitol Architect seems to have limited authority and means and there is no organization of the Congressional or Executive Branch to deal with the over-all aspects of such problems.

7. While the arrangements for management of the project permitted construction, they are totally unsuited for the operational phase. The problems involved are clearly beyond the province of the Army and have their roots in the basic problem of relationships between the Executive Branch and the Congress. The Army having built the facility and being the contracting agency for leasing of certain parts of the facility is most anxious that its status be clarified so responsibility can be passed to the proper agency.

8. The Army Signal Corps must move 63 contract personnel and 24 civilian employees, now located at High Point, to the Greenbrier Hotel to make communications there fully operational. There are both security and legal restraints on premature movement. Should Signal Corps or other activity result in disclosure of the nature of the project, it is not clear who should speak on it to the press or others, or just what should be said. The Army has a cover plan to say it is an evacuation site for The Surgeon General. However, the situation could lead to confusion and embarrassment.

9. General Clifton recently mentioned Project CASPER to the President, who expressed considerable interest and asked for a draft paper which he could sign and send to Vice President Johnson requesting recommendations thereon.

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10. Accordingly, I have had a draft letter prepared which covers all known problem areas and refers them to the Vice President for resolution with the Congress and to issue appropriate instructions to the Executive Branch. Vice President Johnson, as Majority Leader of the Senate, was one of the four leaders who directed that Project CASPER be built.

11. I request that you dispatch to General Clifton the letter at Inclosure 1, which forwards a draft letter for President Kennedy's signature.

(Signed) Elvis J. Stahr, jr.

1 Incl
~~Ltr to Gen Clifton~~
~~w/Incl~~ - Draft ltr
for the Vice President

Elvis J. Stahr, jr.
Secretary of the Army

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The Honorable Lyndon B. Johnson

Vice President of the United States

Dear Mr. Vice President:

In accordance with instructions emanating solely from the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House and Senate in September 1958, the United States Army has completed the Emergency Relocation Site for the United States Congress.

The Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the Architect of the Capitol has completed the construction and the Signal Corps has installed the communications. The Army will continue to co-operate with the Architect of the Capitol in providing technical advice. The facility, known as Project CASPER, is being kept in an austere condition of operational readiness by a small cadre of Army personnel. During the construction phase, directions to the Army, in accordance with prior arrangements within the Department of Defense, have been provided by the Architect of the Capitol.

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The Department of the Army, in its advisory role, has become aware of a number of problems which remain to be resolved to complete all aspects of the plan for relocating Congress. These problems are in the following categories:

a. The organizational frame work for evaluating plans, making decisions, assigning resources and issuing orders, so that all actions relating to the survival of Congress are adequate, in consonance with each other, and with the threat to survival.

b. Possible internal action which the Congress should take to brief its membership on this subject.

c. The means whereby the Executive Branch would notify Congress of the pre-attack necessity to evacuate.

At this stage, the key question is, does Congress want to provide for its own survival and, utilizing the available facility, will it provide the other means of doing so. Or, does the Congress now expect the Executive Branch to provide for its survival, and will it adapt to feasible working arrangements in this regard.

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Substantial effort will be needed and the urgency of the threat indicates that prompt action should be taken.

In light of your prior experience with Project CASPER you are uniquely qualified to deal with the problems involved and to give direction to the Executive Branch for performing tasks that are appropriate.

I need your recommendations and subsequent follow-through in issuing required directives to the Executive Branch in order that those things which should be accomplished at an early date are in fact accomplished.

Sincerely yours,

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : GENERAL DECKER

FROM : SGS

Lt Col Allen
DATE: 1 Sep 61

SUBJECT: Transportation Support for Project CASPER (U)

1. The purpose of the attached DCSLOG SS is to acquire your approval of a proposed letter for signature by the SA. The letter would forward to the Architect of the Capitol an Army developed transportation study, the purpose of which is to provide data useful for the evacuation of members of Congress should such action be required.

2. The Army's participation in this program began in October 1958 and has continued intermittently since then.

3. As pointed out in the DCSLOG SS the sequential steps necessary to the development of a workable plan are now stymied unless and until formal guidance is obtained from the Architect of the Capitol and the necessary funds are made available to DA. The proposed letter for signature by the SA (incl 1 to SS) advises the Architect of the Capitol of this situation and the necessity for some indication of the actions the Army should take.

4. The DCSLOG recommends you approve the letter at incl 1 to SS for signature by the SA.

5. DCSLOG holds the view that you should be briefed on Project CASPER in its entirety in order to acquaint you with the various steps that have been taken thus far in the development of the project. ~~A briefing has been scheduled for 1500 hours, 7 September~~.

RECOMMEND APPROVAL _____

DESIRE BRIEFING ✓

SEE ME _____

Recommend briefing 1530, 8 Sept.
Done (8 Sep 61)

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7 September 1961

General Decker:

Reference attached action: Because of the requirement to brief you this afternoon for the JCS meeting at 0900 tomorrow, the briefing on Project CASPER which was scheduled for 1500 today has had to be cancelled.

Your schedule prior to departure on Far East trip is already heavy; therefore it is recommended that you read pertinent portions of the attached document and refer the case to the Vice Chief of Staff who can act for you after he has been briefed by the staff.

WB

Approved
7 SEP 1961

See me

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NUMBER AND DESCRIPTION OF INCLOSURES TO DOCUMENT (Indicate addition and/or deletion of inclosures with dates)

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M/G Timmerman	5 Sep 61		
Hal Allen	7 Sep 61		
Col Lashot	23 Aug		
Sgt Latham	5 Sep		
E. Hoffman	12 Sep 61		
M Allegar	7 Sep		
Miss Brush	5 Sep 61		

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